

E.O. 11593

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

WO-186

Name of property: Snow Hill Historic District

Location: Snow Hill, Worcester County

State: MD

Request submitted by: HUD/CD Ronald D. Waters

Date received: 10/21/81

Additional information received:

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

☒ **Eligible**

☐ **Not Eligible**

☐ **No Response**

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

☒ **Eligible**

Applicable criteria:

☐ **Not Eligible**

Comments:

36 CFR Part 63.3
Determination

☐ **Documentation insufficient**

(Please see accompanying sheet explaining additional materials required)

FOR

Susan D. Hanson
Keeper of the National Register

Determined Eligible

Date: OCTOBER 27, 1981

submitted for DOE 10/81

SNOW HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Summary Statement of Significance

Snow Hill is significant as a well-preserved Eastern Shore county seat and market town, exhibiting a variety of notable domestic, ecclesiastical, and commercial resources dating from the mid-eighteenth through the early nineteenth centuries.

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SNOW HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Description

Located on the southeastern side of the Pocomoke River in Worcester County, the town of Snow Hill, Maryland, can be reached from the north or south by MD 12, and from the east or west by US 113. The town is surrounded by a productive agricultural area, and has historically been an important center for the shipment of local produce to markets on the western shore and beyond. From early years, the inhabitants of Snow Hill supplemented this commercial base with the production of lumber, and during the nineteenth century food processing industries arose and flourished. Many of the mill and cannery buildings - some long abandoned and others still in use - can be seen on the town's outskirts and along the river.

Laid out in what is essentially a grid, Snow Hill's principal streets are Washington Street, Church Street, and Morris Street running from north to south, and Market Street, Federal Street, and Martin Street running from east to west. None of the streets appear to have been widened to accommodate increased traffic. The main residential area south of Market Street is made up of broad avenues and large blocks divided here and there by more narrow connecting streets. North of Market Street the blocks are smaller and more irregular, with many of the streets being little more than alleys. Most of Snow Hill's businesses can be found on narrow Bank and Pearl Streets, and on Green Street, which forms two strong diagonals meeting at Washington Street.

Approaching from the north, the transition from farmland to town is particularly abrupt; to the east and west there has been considerable industrial development, while residential development has spread along the town's perimeter south of the river. In the Historic District, the amount of open space varies, with Market Street acting as an approximate dividing

line. Along this street and north to the river, house lots tend to be small, with room for little more than a house and a long, narrow backyard. Commercial buildings are almost invariably attached, although this is seldom true of dwellings. South of Market Street, both houses and lots tend to be larger, with a deeper set-back; here can be found many spacious lawns and gardens, and a number of still-undeveloped lots. There is a large municipal park on the western edge of Snow Hill, but aside from the grounds of the Worcester County Courthouse there is little public space within the limits of the historic district.

Few major intrusions mar the general appearance of the historic part of Snow Hill. The new Worcester County Public Library, encountered soon after one enters the town from the north, is a large contemporary building, compatible in scale and materials with the surrounding commercial buildings. A few painted metal facades and glaring signs intrude in the business district, but most of the handsome early twentieth-century brick commercial structures have remained relatively free of alteration. Two large municipal parking areas have been ingeniously hidden in the centers of blocks, and the buildings that surround them left untouched. On the whole the impression of a nineteenth-century rural town and county seat is not disturbed by modern development.

Most of the buildings in Snow Hill's historic district were constructed between 1800 and 1860, and the several styles of the nineteenth century determine the town's architectural character. Of those houses in the historic district listed in the state Historic Sites Inventory, fully 80% were built during the nineteenth century, while the remainder date from the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Two-story frame dwellings predominate, with masonry construction reserved primarily for religious, commercial, and public buildings. Most of the

residential structures were built on a uniform scale, although a few, such as the Hargis House and the John Walter Smith House, stand out because of their large size. There is, likewise, little variation in the degree of decoration of most of Snow Hill's historic houses; the restraint of the Federal style sets the general tone, while even the most ornate Victorian dwellings blend well into the town's atmosphere.

Two of the three buildings in Snow Hill that are certifiably of eighteenth-century origin are located on West Market Street at its intersection with Church Street. 200 West Market Street is a handsome, two-story frame house. Built in the popular townhouse plan on a brick foundation, the house is three bays wide and three deep with a gable roof. The entry door is on the east side of the south facade; at each side of the building are pilasters ending at the cornice, which has a series of dentils and end boards. A two-story, one-bay wing adjoins the west end of the building, and a large chimney separates the two sections. The house is sheathed in clapboard, and the interior woodwork merits particular attention: panelled overmantels were used over the corner fireplaces, an arch separates the hall into two sections, and the stair features unusual turned balusters. 200 West Market Street has recently been restored by its owners.

Nearby stands All Hallows Episcopal Church (listed in the NR), built between 1748 and 1754 at a cost of 80,000 pounds of tobacco. It is a simple, one-story brick building laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers on the two five-bay walls. The entrance is now on the southwest gable, but the central bays of the side were formerly entrances. Unique in Worcester are the semicircular arches of gauged brick with molded keystones and imposts. A kick to the eave is reminiscent of the eave at Genesar. A major remodeling of the interior was carried out in 1891, and two buttresses were added in the

nineteenth century to stabilize the south corner.

Chanceford is a Federal style dwelling that was built during the 1790's. Also known as Ingleside, the handsome mansion on West Federal Street was originally constructed of brick, although this was covered with sand stucco early in the nineteenth century. The main block has, in a sense, two main facades; from the east, it would appear as any townhouse, with two stories and three bays and a side hall and double parlor floor plan. The north side faces the street, however, and its five bays are crowned with a handsome pedimented gable. Behind the main part of the building is a wing; one room wide and two deep, it houses a stair hall that is similar to the main stair and one contained a ballroom that has been converted into a kitchen. A modern living porch has recently been constructed at the rear of the house. Chanceford can boast of no panelling, but its mantels and trim have a modest carved decoration which can be seen as a transition from the bold carving of the Georgian style to the delicate work of the Federal style.

One of the finest of Snow Hill's early nineteenth century dwellings is Cherrystone. Constructed in 1811 in the Federal style, it has a gable similar to that of its neighbor, Chanceford; this was the main facade until the land on either side of the former entrance allee was sold and houses constructed. It is three bays wide and three deep with a three-bay hyphen and a three-bay wing, both of which are one story.

Cherrystone's two-story main portion has beaded clapboard above a brick basement; along the street side is a one-story screened porch with Doric columns and balustrades above. The entrance is located on the east side of this facade and features a fanlight and panelled door. The sash have nine-over-six panes on the first story and six-over-six on the second story and in the attic. Shaped modillions with swags of drill holes between line the cornice, and the gable roof is covered with

wood shingles. Three gabled dormers pierce the roof, apparently an after-thought. On the west gable is a large capped chimney, narrow but deep and tall. A small brick cellar entrance is beneath the south window on the west gable. Both the hyphen and wing have central doors with the upper part glazed, six-over-six windows and beaded clapboard. The roof of the hyphen is lower and less steep than that of the kitchen. There is a fireplace with chimney on the west gable of the kitchen, located outside the structure.

The Whaley House is an early nineteenth-century dwelling with a five-bay long, two-story portion connected to a two-bay long, lower two-story wing; a hyphen and one-story kitchen are set at right angles to the wing. The entire structure is of frame construction with clapboard siding. A two-story porch features a lattice-design balustrade, and is supported by four square columns. The central door has sidelights and a transom, and all first story windows have four-over-four sash, a late nineteenth-century change. The second-story windows have six-over-six sash, and louvered shutters are used throughout the house. Chimneys are at each gable, one inside and the other out. The wing has two windows on each story and a door on the first; on its gable, and on the kitchen gable as well, is a large exposed chimney and fireplace built in a pyramidal shape. Off the kitchen and hyphen is a leanto porch, partially shaded by a lattice. The Whaley House is currently used as apartments.

A simple, early nineteenth-century, Federal-style building, 209 West Market Street is five bays long, two stories high, and of frame construction with asbestos siding. A large exterior chimney is built on the east gable and is flanked by a window on each level. The windows on both stories have nine-over-six sash and louvered shutters, though the upper windows are smaller. Later in the century, several additions were made to the house, including a second story bay window above the front door, a

central gable in the "A" roof, and a frame wing in the rear.

The house at 118 West Market Street is similar to number 209: it is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay, frame house on a brick foundation, that has been covered with asbestos siding. The sash on the facade have one-over-one panes, while those on the east side have nine-over-nine, nine-over-six and six-over-six on the first, second and attic levels, respectively. The Federal house was "Victorianized" late in the last century, with the addition of a screened front porch and a double entrance door with applied bolelection molding. Above the front door, however, there is a Palladian style window with fluted pilaster strips and a keystone with rosette - confirming the Federal origin of this house. There is a lancet window in a gable in the center of the "A" roof. At each end of the building there is a brick chimney, one within and one outside the wall, and to the rear a large two-story, three-bay "L".

The house at 204 West Green Street is almost identical to the main part of the Whaley House, although it is not as well preserved. Built on a high brick foundation, number 204 is a frame dwelling, five bays long and two deep with two full stories and a two-story porch on the facade. A chimney is located on each side of the house, one built on the outside and the other encased in the structure; the entire building is covered with clapboard. A simple rectangular transom is atop the door, and the windows of the first story are taller than those of the second. The yard is enclosed by a Victorian piercework fence.

Reputed to be the oldest house in Snow Hill, the Little House, also known as Thebaud Cottage, is a one-and-one-half-story frame structure composed of two small sections. The taller portion is three bays long with two "A" roof dormers, and the smaller portion is two bays long with a single "A" roof dormer. The building is sheathed in white clapboard and

the first story windows have louvered shutters. In the larger section is the entrance door, closest to the wing, and an exposed chimney. An enclosed chimney is found on the opposite end of the house. Wood shingles cover the roof. The sash of the first story windows have nine-over-six panes and the ones in the dormers have six-over-six panes. Although the Little House was built in a vernacular mode that could place its construction on either side of 1800, all of the exterior trim seems to indicate an early nineteenth-century origin.

Another of Snow Hill's fine Federal Houses is the Episcopal Rectory at 109 Federal Street. The main portion of this frame dwelling is three bays long and three deep, but another bay with a gable was added to the east end in the late nineteenth century. The entrance has an "A" roof portico above the door, which is flanked by fluted pilasters that sunbursts in the capitals, but nothing above them. It is located on the easternmost side of the original portion. The structure is built on a brick foundation and is covered with beaded clapboard. On both levels, the windows are quite tall, having nine-over-nine sash on the first story and nine-over-six on the second, and all are flanked by louvered shutters. The cornice has a fascia with flat modillion blocks and swags of drill holes between each block. In the gable are two small windows with three-over-six sash and on the same side in a small screened porch off the back bay, now a door.

On the north corner of Federal and Washington Streets is the MacPherson House, a two-story frame structure that is three bays long and two deep, with a two-bay, one-story wing. The windows that have not been changed to one pane sash have nine-over-six and six-over-six sash. Thanks to a recent restoration, the MacPherson House has lost a leanto screened porch from its main facade; but its most noteworthy feature - beaded clapboard siding with shaped end boards - was at the same time replaced

with aluminum siding. The two-story gable contains a large interior chimney, and the opposite gable has an exposed pyramidal chimney.

One of Snow Hill's unique buildings is the Hargis House, Chanceford's neighbor to the east, and a fine example of the Italianate Victorian style that was in vogue during the mid-nineteenth century. It is a three-story, frame structure, now covered with white asbestos siding, three bays long and two deep with a two-story, two bay wing off-set at the rear.

Each bay consists of a double window with an over cornice in an uncommon double reverse ogee design; even the very small third-story windows received this treatment. Above each bay and at the corners in the cornice are two pairs of carved and shaped end brackets; between these brackets are large dentils. At the apex of the nearly flat roof is a tall lantern with the same window and cornice treatment. A chimney with two pots stands to the west of the lantern.

On the Division Street side, one bay is a bay window with unusual brackets and swags. The windows and cornice decoration on the back wing are the same as in the main portion of the house, but here there is only one window in each bay. The front door, in the center of the Federal Street facade, has a double door, side-lights and transome. In the fancy work above is some cut out scroll work which is not repeated above the windows.

The Laws House is a fine two-and-one-half-story frame residence that dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The five-bay by three-bay structure is sheathed in beaded clapboard and stands on a tall brick basement. On the first story facade is a porch almost identical to the one on the house at 401 West Federal Street. A superior entablature surrounds the front door, with semi-engaged fluted columns with sunburst capitals and a pediment over the fanlight. The four

windows on the facade have been lengthened and hung with one-pane sash. The other windows have dark green louvered shutters. The cornice is unusual, its shaped modillions approaching the size of brackets, beneath which is a series of circles. Two dormers light the attic of the gable roof. A chimney is set within each gable, painted white to match the basement and clapboard.

104 East Market Street is a five-bay long, two-story house with a three-bay, one-story wing. It appears to have been built about 1840, then remodeled at a later date with the addition of a gable in each "A" roof plus decorative slate shingling. The door is centrally located with sidelights and a transom. There is a Victorian screened porch on the first story with "gingerbread"; the windows of the second story have six-over-six sash and louvered shutters. In the main part of the house two chimneys rise through the roof within the gable walls, but the chimney on the wing is exposed.

Next door, at number 106 East Market Street, is the Dave Johnson House, also known as Necessity. This frame, Federal style dwelling was probably built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Like several dwellings in nearby Berlin, this house has a pedimented gable facade with a small Doric entrance porch. The large windows with nine-over-nine sash and the transom and sidelights of the door give an airiness typical of late Federal architecture.

The Thebaud House on East Market Street is one of the most unusual and appealing nineteenth-century dwellings in Snow Hill. The earliest part of the frame house probably dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, with the other three sections built subsequently; all four parts have elaborate Victorian detailing that was added before the turn of the century. A cast iron trellis supports the porch roof, while a two-story gallery on the back wing of the house is constructed

entirely of wood. Pierced and scalloped Gothic ornamentation is found along the cornice and the gables.

Mt. Zion School is a three-bay deep, one-story, frame structure sheathed with vertical boards and battens, that is approximately one hundred years old. The entrance is one gable and has a plain panelled door; a chimney is located at the ridge of the other gable. The building stands on a new brick foundation on the grounds of the Snow Hill School, having been moved from its original location. All six windows are now closed by panelled shutters. There is an overhang around the entire "A" roof.

Built in the style of the Second Empire, 401 Federal Street is a fine dwelling erected during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is three bays long and one deep, with a one-story porch on its facade. The porch has turned balusters, and the roof is supported on chamfered square columns; decorative corner brackets with turned finials hang between the columns. The bracket that is found in the cornice of the mansard roof is repeated on the porch cornice. Both porch and trim are painted white.

The main part of the house is sided in clapboard. Each window, flanked by louvered shutters, has two-over-two sash and a series of dentils above. The central door features two glass panels in the upper part. The roof is covered with slate with a decorative motif throughout, and is pierced by three small jerkinhead dormers. Two white brick chimneys come up through the roof in the approximate center of the building. To the east rear is a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay wing, with the same treatment as the forward section, and on the east side of the house is a two-story bay window.

301 Federal Street, also known as the Payne House, sits in a yard amid a lush growth of trees, boxwood and ivy. It is a large Victorian house, built in the Queen Anne style around 1880; five bays long and two deep, its steep "A" roof features

a gable above the central bay. On the Federal Street facade of this two-and-one-half-story house is a one-story porch with Doric columns and a low balustrade on the roof. Although most of the building is sheathed in white clapboard, the gables are differentiated from the lower portions by fish scale shingles. Each window has a segmentally-arched upper sash, green louvered shutters and two-over-two sash; the central entrance has a similar arch with the addition of sidelights. There are decorative cornice-lintels above the windows, and on the cornice, ornate paired brackets. The window in the gable has a semicircular head, and in the apex is a decorative cut-out bracket, also repeated in the other gables. Two chimneys with decorative caps pierce the "A" roof, which is sheathed with slate in a design of contrasting shades. On the west side of the house is a one-story porch.

The Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1887-89 in high Victorian Gothic style. Built of brick on a rough-cut stone foundation, the same stone was used as trim around the windows, doors, buttresses and as belt courses around the towers. Essentially, it is a cruciform structure with each vacant corner filled by an additional room: two towers on the street facade and service rooms on the rear. On each of the four gables of the cross is a huge stained glass window; entrance is gained through a double door in each tower. The towers have lancet windows, buttresses and octagonal spires, each with a decorative finial and turrets. The east tower contains the bell, and is considerably taller than the other. All of the building has the same reddish color and green-painted woodwork. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the spires with slate.

Originally constructed in 1891 as a Roman Catholic chapel, the Julia A. Purnell Museum is a single-story, frame building on a brick foundation, sheathed in green clapboard. It is

three bays wide and four deep with an "A" roof whose gable faces West Market Street. It has a double door with transom, flanked by two colored glass windows with lancet arches. The windows along the sides of the building are rectangular, and the two center bays are composed of two bays each. To the front of the nave is the sanctuary. The interior is plain, but the exposed woodwork and structural members are attractive. The building is currently maintained by the Worcester County Historical Society as a museum in memory of Julia A. Purnell.

The John Walter Smith House is one of a small number of Queen Anne style buildings found in Snow Hill. Built about 1890 by wealthy merchant and future Governor J. Walter Smith, the massive frame dwelling is a compilation of clapboard and shingle, porches and towers, gables and recesses. On each end of the Church Street facade is a tower, one tall and octagonal, and the other shorter and round. The tall first-story windows have one-over-one sash. A porch with pairs of Doric columns extends partially around the house, following the contours of the towers. It is a successful display of decorative effects.

Built in 1894 in a style which is a combination of Queen Anne and Classical Revival, the Worcester County Courthouse is one of the finest municipal buildings on the Eastern Shore. It is similar to the Caroline County Courthouse prior to the latter's recent remodeling. The Courthouse is five bays long with more recent wings set back from the facade on each side. The brick is laid in all-stretcher bond. A double glass door with leaded glass sidelights and an elliptical fanlight is found in the central bay; entrance is gained through a Doric portico with four columns and a low cast iron cresting. All of the second-story windows, including the single window above the entrance, have semicircular head and upper sash with

radiating mullions. Above the central window is a block of red sandstone bearing the name of the building, and flanking the window are Ionic pilasters. On each side of the central bay is a pavillion set out from the wall only a few inches and also flanked by Ionic pilasters. Crowning the first story windows are flat arches with brick keystones. Each pavillion has a bulls-eye window in the center of its simple pediment. An octagonal cupola sits atop the central bay on an Ionic base which holds the town clock. The wings have been built of matching brick, and have no windows on their facade.

On the corner of Federal and Washington Streets stands a large granite building, Whatcoat Methodist Church, constructed in 1900 in the Romanesque style. Fronting on each street is a wide gable containing a huge three-part stained glass window flanked by two smaller windows, and on the corner stands a tall tower. High in the gable is a row of three small windows, and each gable is capped with pre-cast concrete. The tower contains the double entrance door with stained glass fanlight, a very tall, thin stained glass window and a cornice of corbels; above is a slate-sided bell platform with three louvered arches in each of the four sides, and a heavy white cornice, pyramid roof and an ornate finial.

On the Federal Street side is another two-story, crenelated tower and a wing, extending the depth of the church, with octagonal ends. The smaller tower contains an entrance which is identical to the one found in the larger tower. On the second level are two small stained glass windows with semi-circular arches. All of the arches above the windows and doors are made of a lighter grey granite than the rest of the walls. The wood trim is painted white and the doors are natural oak.

The elements of the church seem to be more eclectic than,

for example, the contemporary Lovely Lane Methodist Church in Baltimore. It is similar to Buckingham Church in Berlin for its mass, building material, and style.

In 1893 a serious fire levelled much of Snow Hill's business district, and many of the town's commercial buildings were rebuilt during the closing years of the nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth century. A noteworthy row of two-story brick commercial buildings is located on Green Street, between Bank Street and Washington Avenue. Among other commercial structures, three are of particular architectural value. The Old Commercial Bank on Pearl Street is now the law office of Edward Thomas. It is three bays wide with the entrance on its north side; above the entrance is a small pyramidal tower with a pediment on its face. The two windows are set within their own panels and have double sash and stained glass transoms, as well as granite sills and imposts. The cornice is composed of a series of blocks and the hipped roof is covered with slate. The building has its counterparts in two of the small banks of Berlin, north of Snow Hill.

On the corner of Market and Bank Streets is the First National Bank, a single-story, brick, Queen Anne style structure made important by its decorative features. It is three bays wide and four bays deep with a circular entrance tower on its southeast corner. Both windows and doors have red sandstone sills and lintels, and above the lintels of the windows are semicircular arched transoms. The brickwork above the height of the lintels is laid in Flemish bond with all of the headers recessed about one-half inch, creating a basketweave effect. Above this is a molded brick cornice. The roof is essentially a hipped roof with some superimposed hips where the wall "breaks out" on each side; the tower has a conical roof, and features a copper ball finial.

Most of the downtown commercial structures possess

rather standard facades, but feature a variety of cornice details. The Sturgis Building, located directly across from the Courthouse on Market Street, is three bays wide on its first story facade and four bays wide on the second story. The central bay of the first story contains an alcove with three doors leading to the offices beyond and upstairs. All openings have segmental arches and red sandstone sills. The cornice has brackets with panelled fascia between, and a series of discs above. In the center is a semicircular fan with three finials, the latter repeated at the ends of the building. The entire cornice appears to be made of tin.

South of Federal Street and east of Collins Street, the District is defined by houses reflecting a variety of late-19th and early-20th century vernacular and pattern-book styles. Common lot size, frame construction, and two or two-and-a-half story height, serve to unify this diverse collection of resources.

SNOW HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

History and Support

Snow Hill is a rural town on the lower Eastern Shore which has preserved much of its nineteenth-century character in its Federal and Victorian dwellings, public buildings, and commercial structures. The town plan of Snow Hill is one of the more noteworthy in the area, its wide, tree-lined residential avenues contrasting to the narrow, alley-like streets of the business district. The county seat of Worcester County, Snow Hill is also one of the oldest towns on the Eastern Shore.

Located on the south side of the Pocomoke River, the site of Snow Hill was once used as a landing place by Indians; when the earliest white settlers in the vicinity arrived in 1642, they named the area "Snow Hill", after the suburb of London from which they had come. In 1676 the land on which the present town stands was included in a tract of the same name that was patented by Col. William Stevens. Stevens, a prominent planter in what was then Somerset County, amassed a fortune by combining agriculture and merchandising with land speculation. He sold the tract called "Snow Hill" to Henry Bishop in 1678 for the sum of 15,000 pounds of tobacco.

In "An Act for the Advancement of Trade", the Maryland Assembly directed in 1683 that five new towns be founded in Somerset County. Three years later the "Snow Hill" tract was selected as one of these sites, and the requisite 100 acres were purchased from the Bishop family. Snow Hill was further made an official port of entry for the Province of Maryland in 1706. Although these pices of legislation were ultimately disallowed by the Queen, many of the towns whose founding they had directed took root and grew. When Worcester County was carved from Somerset County in 1742, Snow Hill was resurveyed and designated the county seat. A second resurvey

was carried out in 1793; the plat of this, giving lot numbers, streets and alleys, and the evidence on which the survey rests, is recorded in the Worcester County Court records.

Snow Hill soon became an important overnight stop for those travelling north and south along the Delmarva peninsula. The town's economic mainstay during its early years, however, was the shipping and receiving a variety of commodities. Situated at the heart of a rich farming area, Snow Hill exported Eastern Shore tobacco, grain, lumber, and imported manufactured goods. It was also a transshipment point for commodities moving down the eastern seaboard to the Chesapeake Bay, and had a particular trading relationship with the West Indies, receiving rum, molasses, and sugar in return for local produce. Just as legitimate trade flourished in Snow Hill, so did its illicit counterpart: smuggling was carried on through nearby Chincoteague Bay and down the Pocomoke River, and many tales have been handed down of the brushes of the buccaneers with local customs officials. During this period of growing commercial prosperity, many businesses arose in support of the town's trading economy. Warehouses sprang up along the river, and a wheelwright and a shipwright became established before the mid-eighteenth century. Many of the town's leading citizens during the early years were Scottish merchants who acted as factors, buying produce from the surrounding area, and marketing it through the port of Snow Hill. One of these factors, Robert Martin, had by 1721 purchased most of the acreage surrounding the town and all of the lots in Snow Hill not already sold. His descendants became a decisive influence in the early development of the town.

By the time of the American Revolution, Snow Hill comprised an estimated fifty households, a size that was comparable to several other important towns on the Eastern Shore. Although the region produced many prominent patriot leaders,

the southern portion of the peninsula was a center of loyalist activity, as well. Tories maintained a fort near Snow Hill from which they intercepted boats travelling down the Pocomoke laden with provisions for the Continental armies. In spite of this interference, however, the town was designated in 1781 as the Somerset and Worcester receiving station for supplies being sent to Yorktown, and, throughout the war, huge quantities of meat and grain left Snow Hill destined for the army stores at Head of Elk.

During the early nineteenth century, Snow Hill changed with the young republic. Steamboats gradually replaced the schooners that had helped bring a measure of prosperity, but the town remained an active port, as goods and passengers travelled to and from the western shore. The operations of the nearby Nassawango Iron Furnace (listed in the National Register) further increased Snow Hill's river traffic. Begun in 1832 by Judge Ara Spence, the furnace refined bog iron found in the nearby swamps until 1842, when operations were ceased and the town of Furnace that it had spawned was abandoned. The days when river transportation was vital to commercial activity, however, were already numbered. In 1858 the first rail line on the southern Eastern Shore was begun, and Snow Hill ultimately became an important stop on the north-south peninsular route. The railroad helped give the southern part of the Eastern Shore considerable strategic importance during the Civil War. Organized at Snow Hill, Smith's Independent Cavalry Company served from October 15, 1862, to June 30, 1865. It was charged with preventing secret Confederate activity, and was stationed from time to time at Snow Hill, Newton, Point Lookout, Eastville, Drummondtown, Salisbury, Relay House, and Barnesville, but saw no action. George W. P. Smith was its captain.

The changing nature of the American lifestyle, as well

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as new modes of transportation, prompted Snow Hill to broaden its economic base during the nineteenth century to include some of the industries that help support the town today. Although fresh produce continued to be exported, Snow Hill's lumber industry grew during the later nineteenth century, and food processing was developed. A fruit drying plant was established by William T. Hargis during the 1860's. By 1895 the town could boast of two planing mills, a box factory and grist mill, a weaving mill, a rawhide whip factory, and a canning factory. Although many of these industrial establishments have since disappeared, Snow Hill still depends largely on canning and processing to supplement its agricultural economic base.

The residents of Snow Hill are justifiably proud of their architectural legacy, as it provides an excellent representation of the Federal and Victorian periods. Many of the finest of these houses have been closely linked with the history of the town. Chanceford, for instance, was erected by James Rounds Morris, Clerk of the Worcester County Court during the late eighteenth century. Others were the products of new wealth created by nineteenth-century industrial expansion. The Hargis House was built about 1860 by William T. Hargis, a local food processor. John Walter Smith, a future State Senator, Governor, and U.S. Senator, built the Queen Anne style house that bears his name around 1890, after amassing a fortune in retail merchandising. Although most of Snow Hill's structures post-date the Revolution, All Hallows Presbyterian Church, built between 1748 and 1754, and its neighbor, the house at 200 West Market Street, date from the mid-eighteenth century, bringing to mind Snow Hill's earlier years.

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Prepared by Peter E. Kurtze from information in the files of
the Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle, Annapolis,
Maryland, 21401. Telephone (301) 269-2438.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: 215 E. Martin St. Survey Number: WO-186

Property Address: 215 E. Martin Street, Snow Hill

Project: CDBG Rehabilitation (9203269) Agency: Snow Hill

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name Date

District Name: Snow Hill Historic District Survey Number: WO-186

 Listed X Eligible D.O.E.-27 Oct 1981 Comment

Criteria: X A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

The resource X contributes/ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

X Location X Design X Setting Materials

 Workmanship Feeling X Association

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

215 E. Martin Street is located within the boundaries of the National Register eligible Snow Hill Historic District. Although this late 19th century, two-story, five bay, frame residence has been altered with the addition of asphalt shingles and replacement windows, it still contributes to the character of the Snow Hill Historic District in overall size, scale and massing.

Documentation on the property is presented in: review and compliance files

Prepared by: Vicki Benton, Snow Hill Citizens for Decent Housing, Inc.

Jo Ellen Freese 12/4/92
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes no not applicable

R. Anderson 12-21-93
Reviewer, NR program Date

Survey No. WO-186

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore | (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Shore | (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont | (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland | (Allegany, Garrett and Washington) |

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian | 10000-7500 B.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic | 7500-6000 B.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic | 6000-4000 B.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic | 4000-2000 B.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland | 2000-500 B.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland | 500 B.C. - A.D. 900 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic | A.D. 900-1600 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement | A.D. 1570-1750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification | A.D. 1680-1815 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition | A.D. 1815-1870 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance | A.D. 1870-1930 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Period | A.D. 1930-Present |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic) | |

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demographic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaption |

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- | |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government/Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): House

Known Design Source: None

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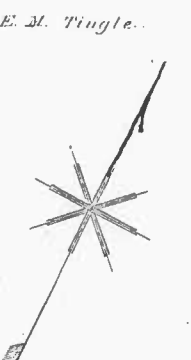
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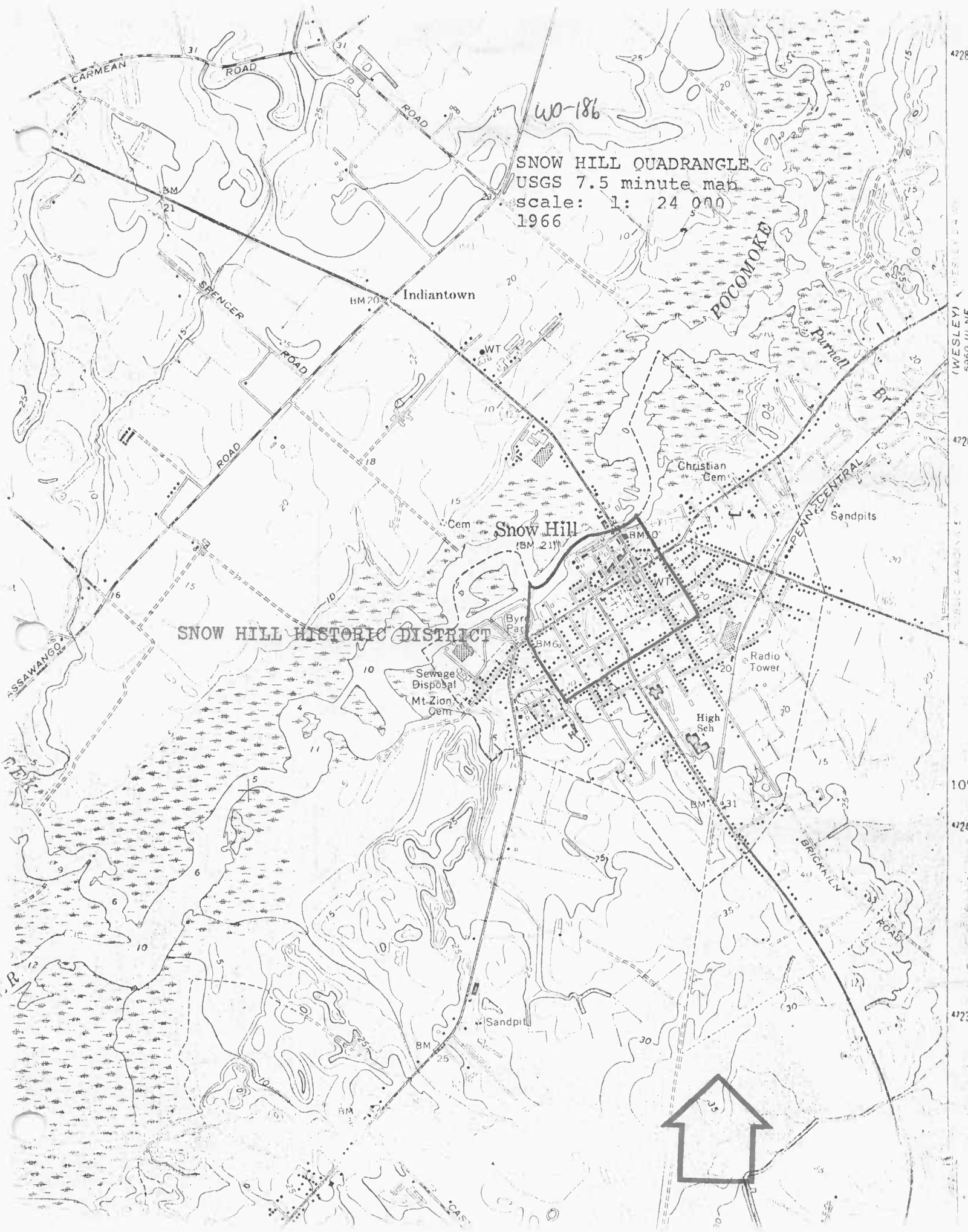
Cathy Wilson

215 E. Market St.
Snow Hill, MD.

front

HISTORIC DISTRICT







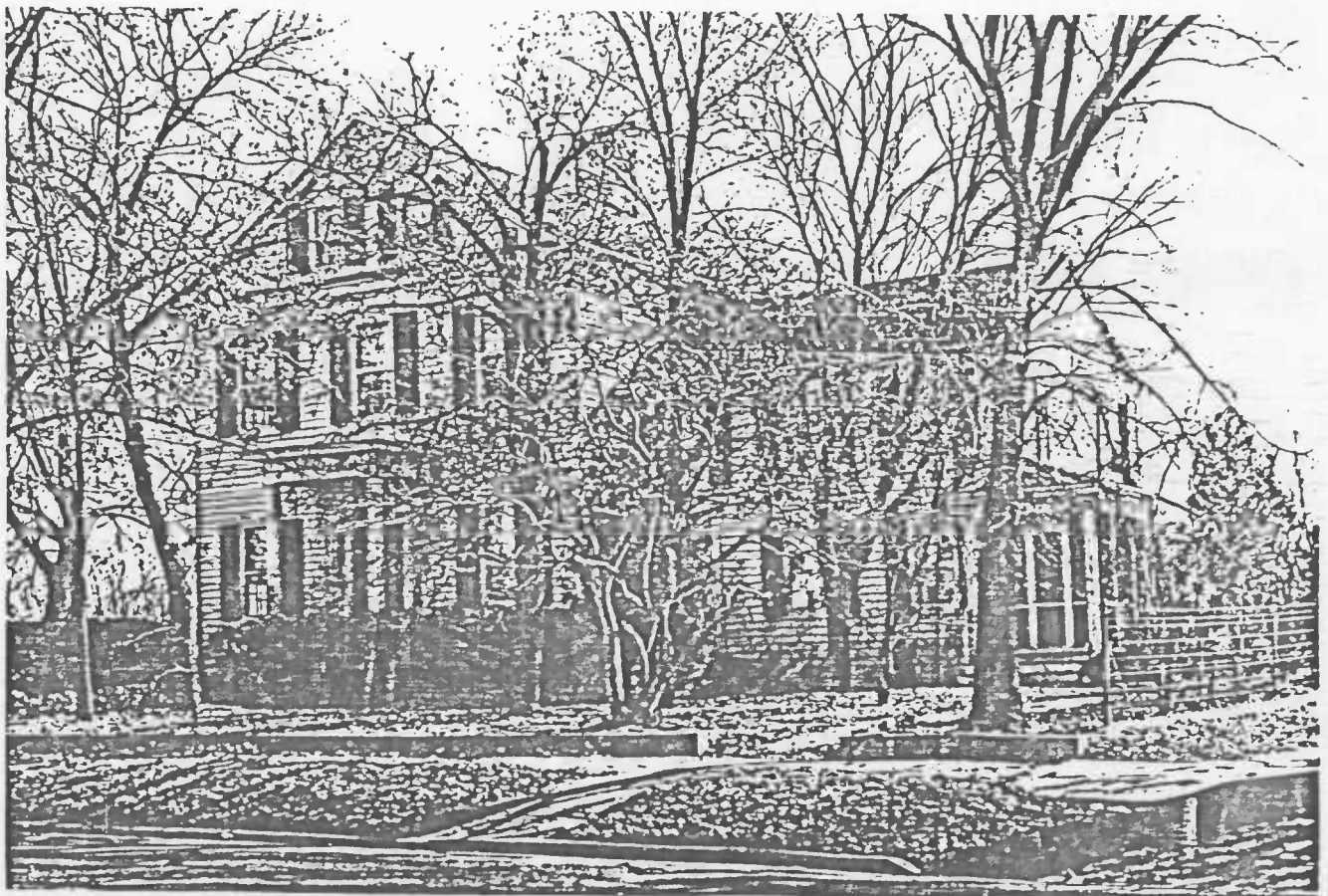
1 INGLESIDE (CHANCEFORD) 209 W. FEDERAL ST.



2 MASON HOUSE (MUMFORD HOUSE)
207 W. IRONSHIRE ST.



3. 109^W FEDERAL ST.

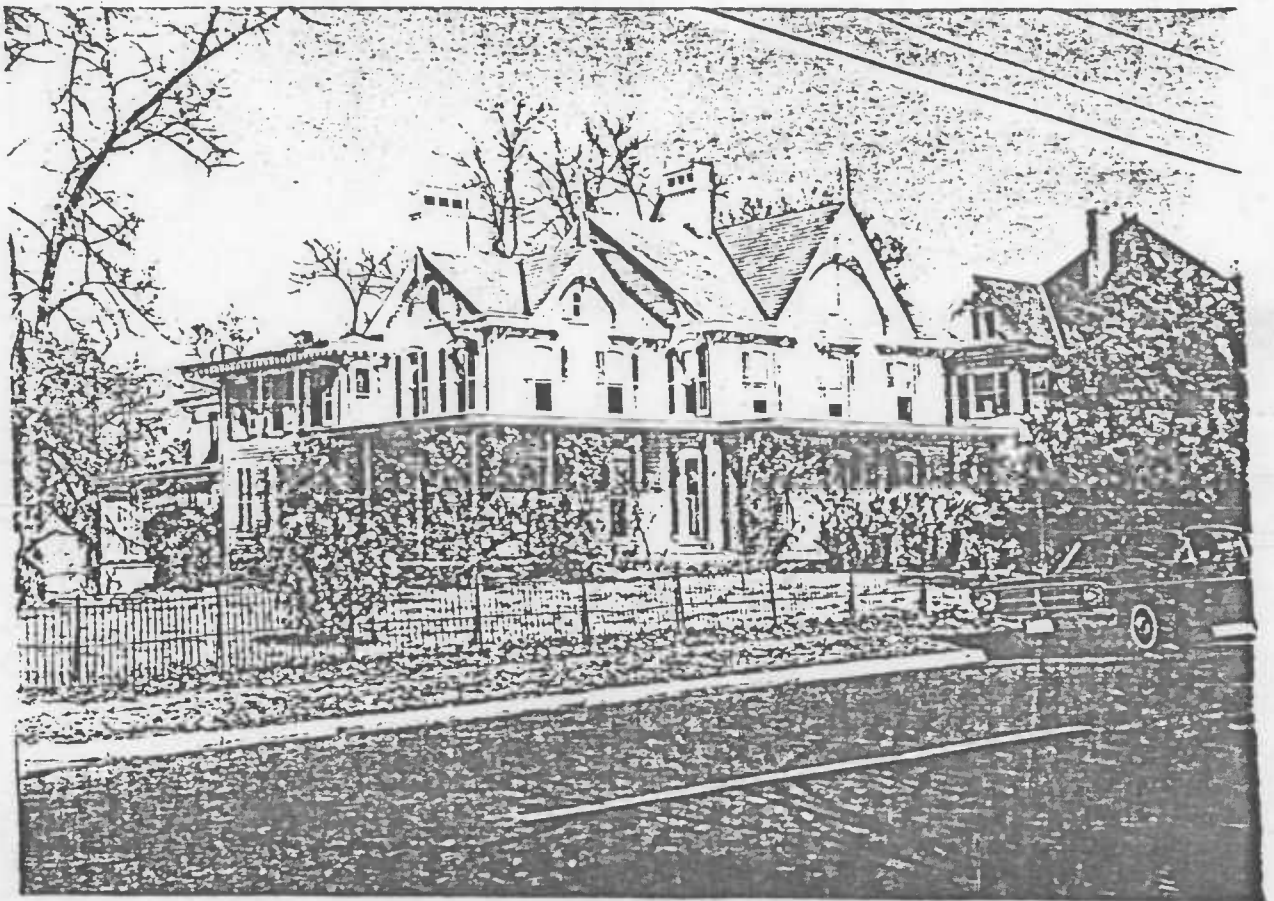


4. 106 E. MARKET ST.

WO-186



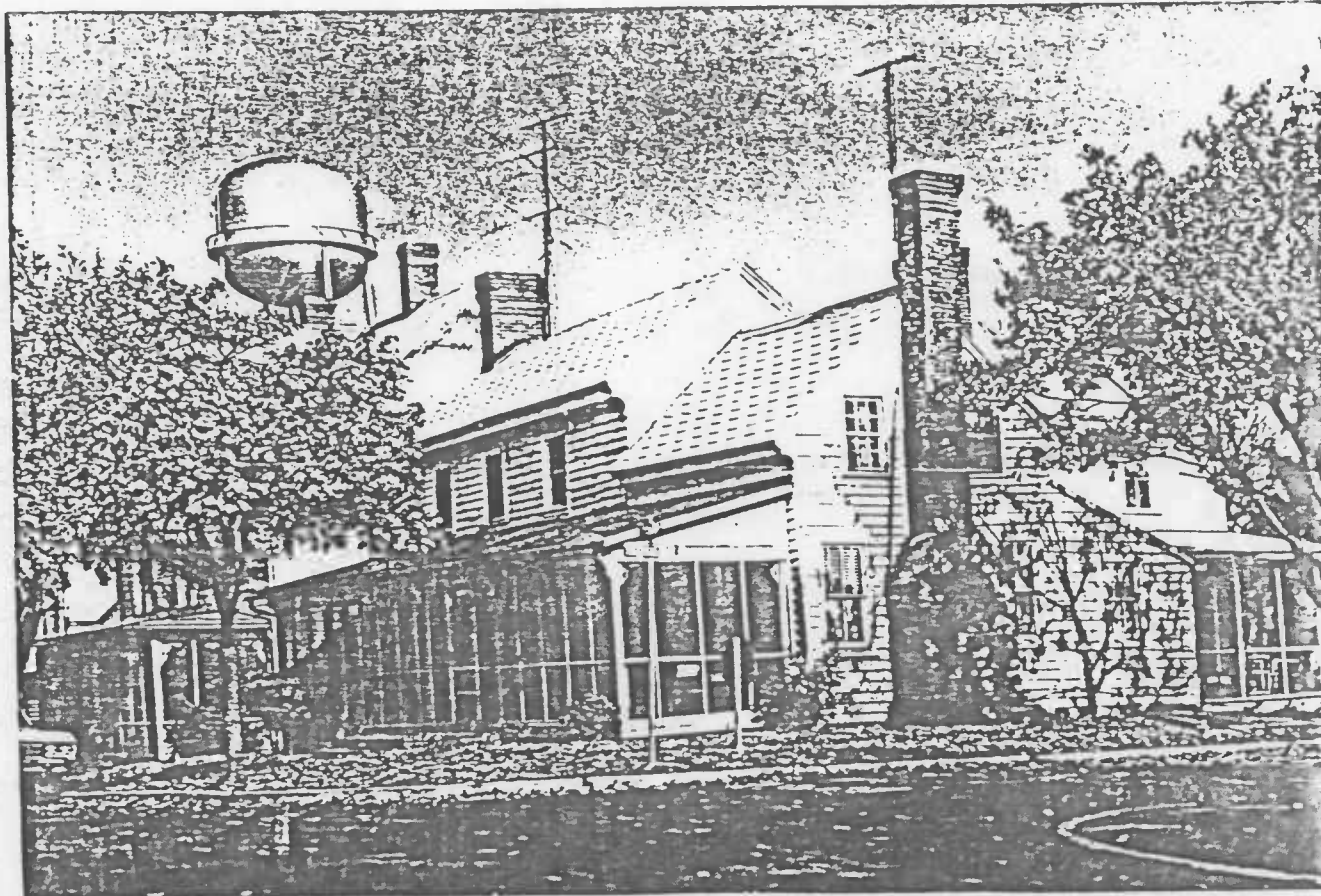
5 116 W. MARKET ST.



6 THEBAUD HOUSE, 201 E. MARKET ST.



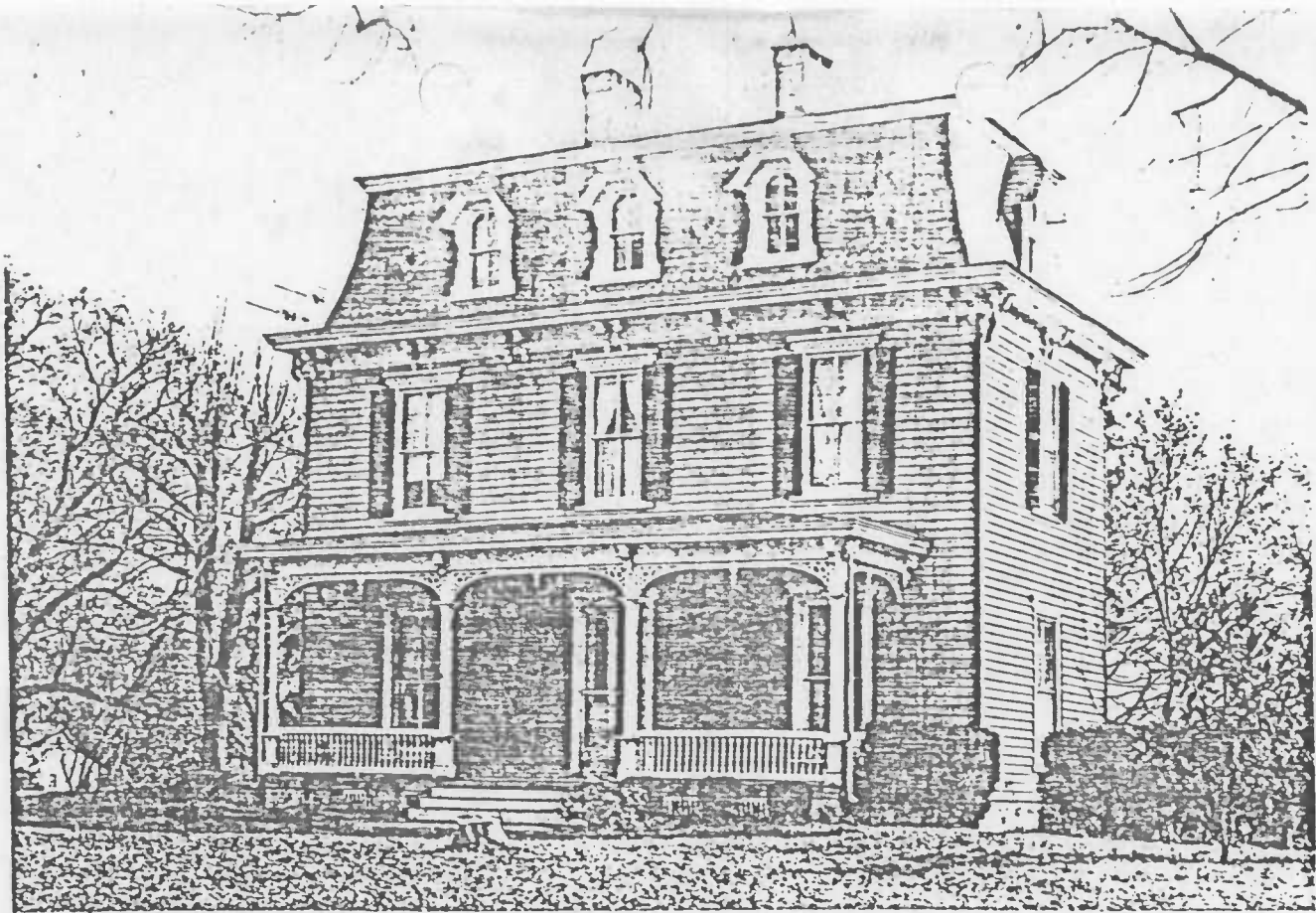
7 BURBIS HOUSE



8 SOUTHEAST CORNER OF FEDERAL & WASHINGTON STS.

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96

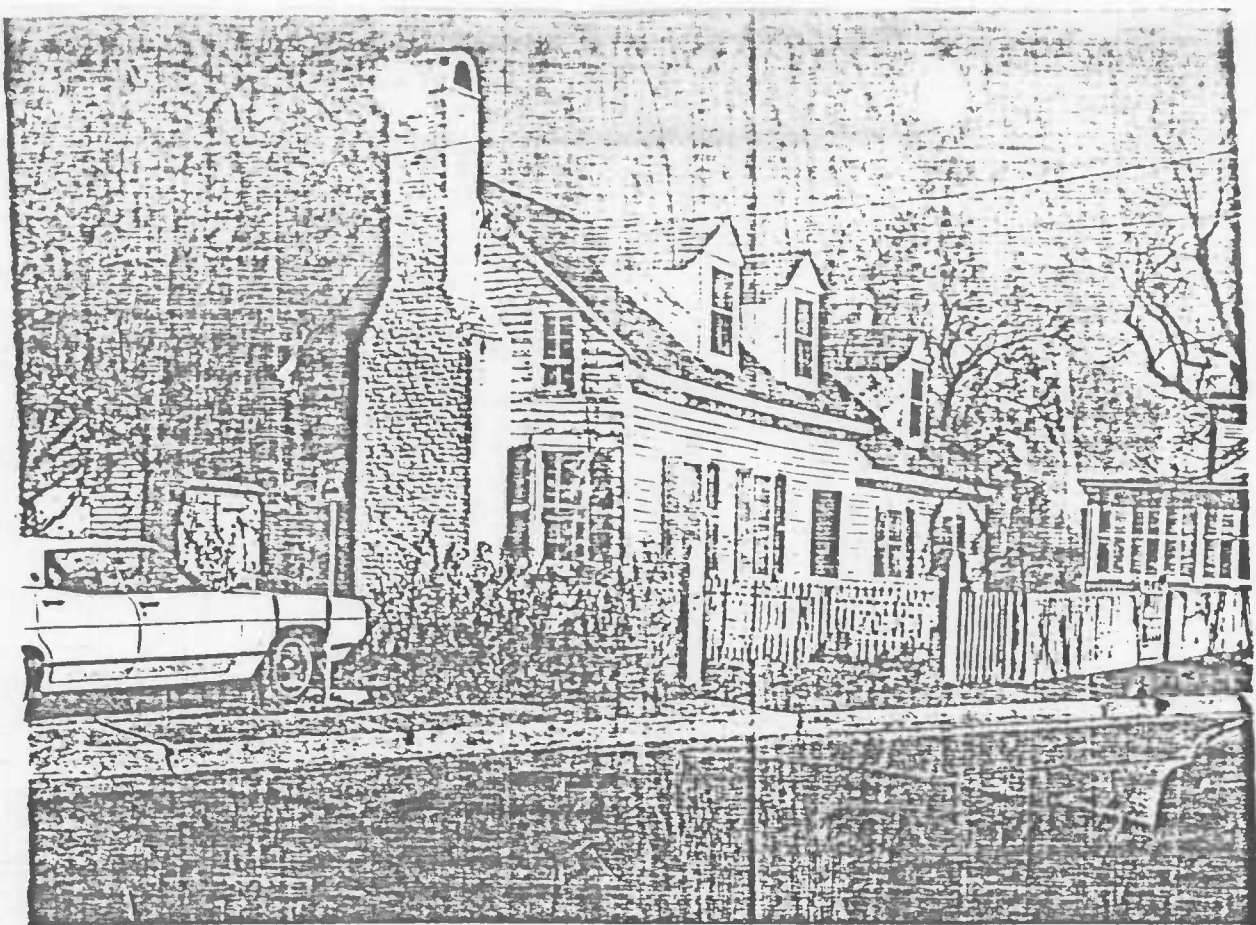


10. 401 FEDERAL ST.

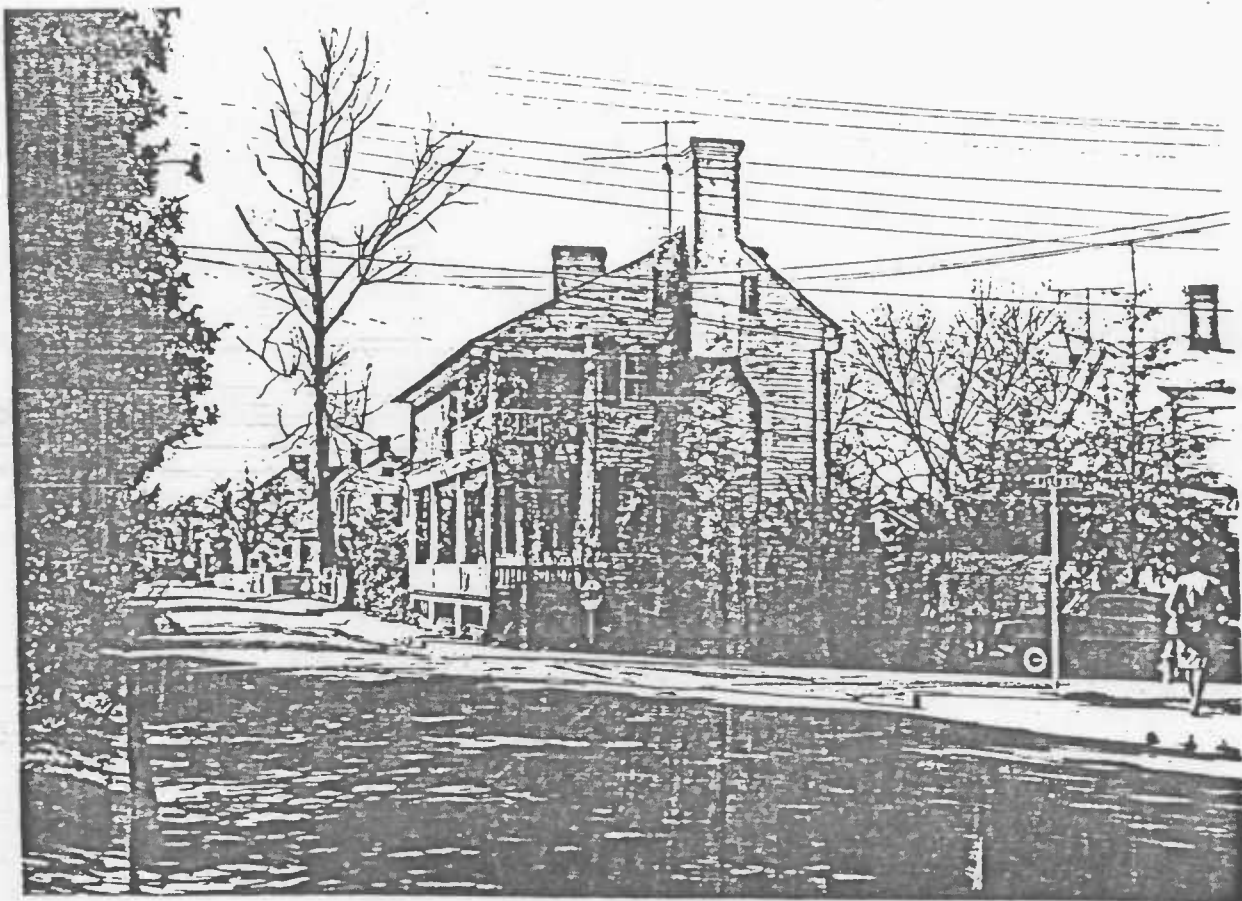


9. 118 W. MARKET ST.

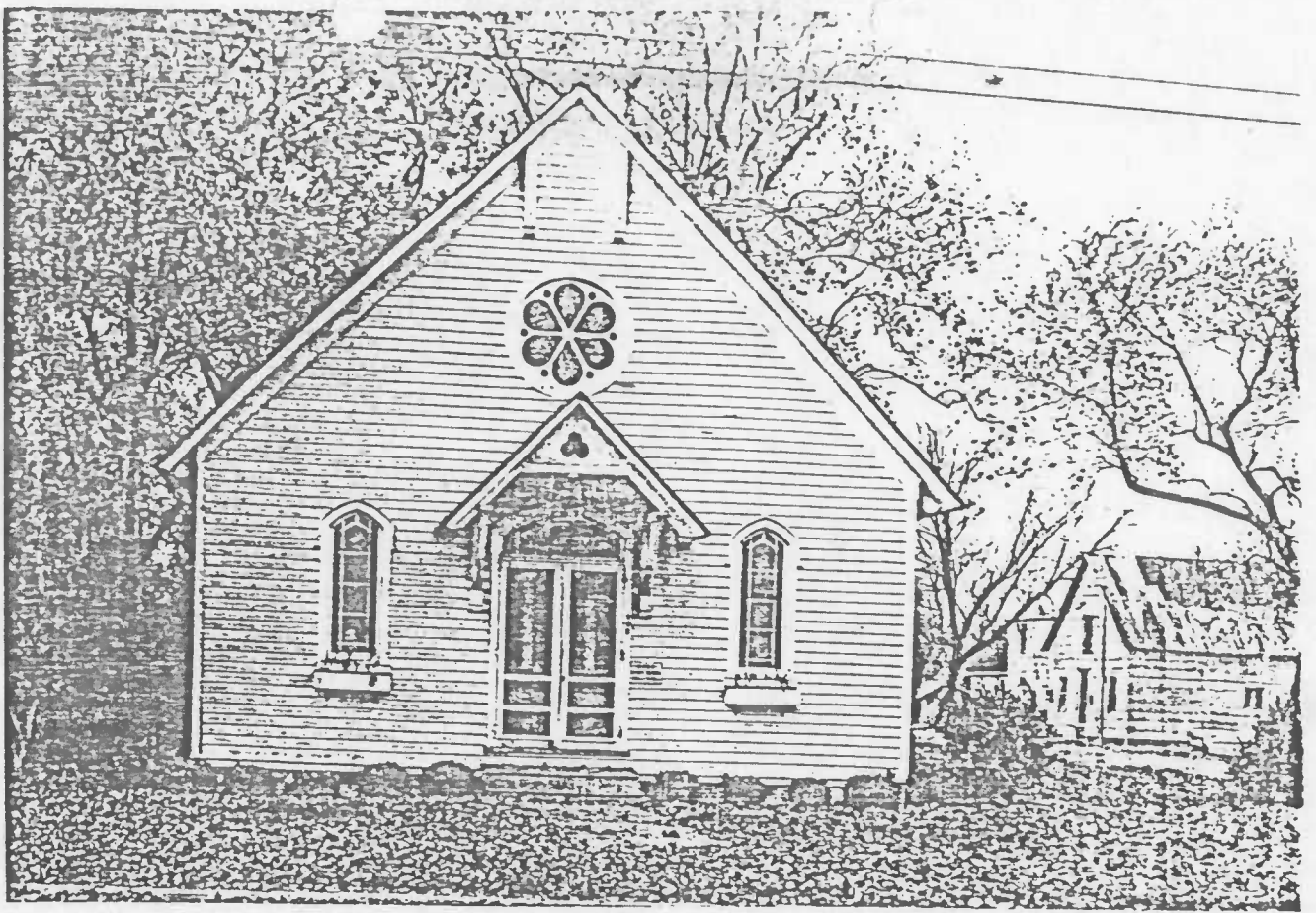
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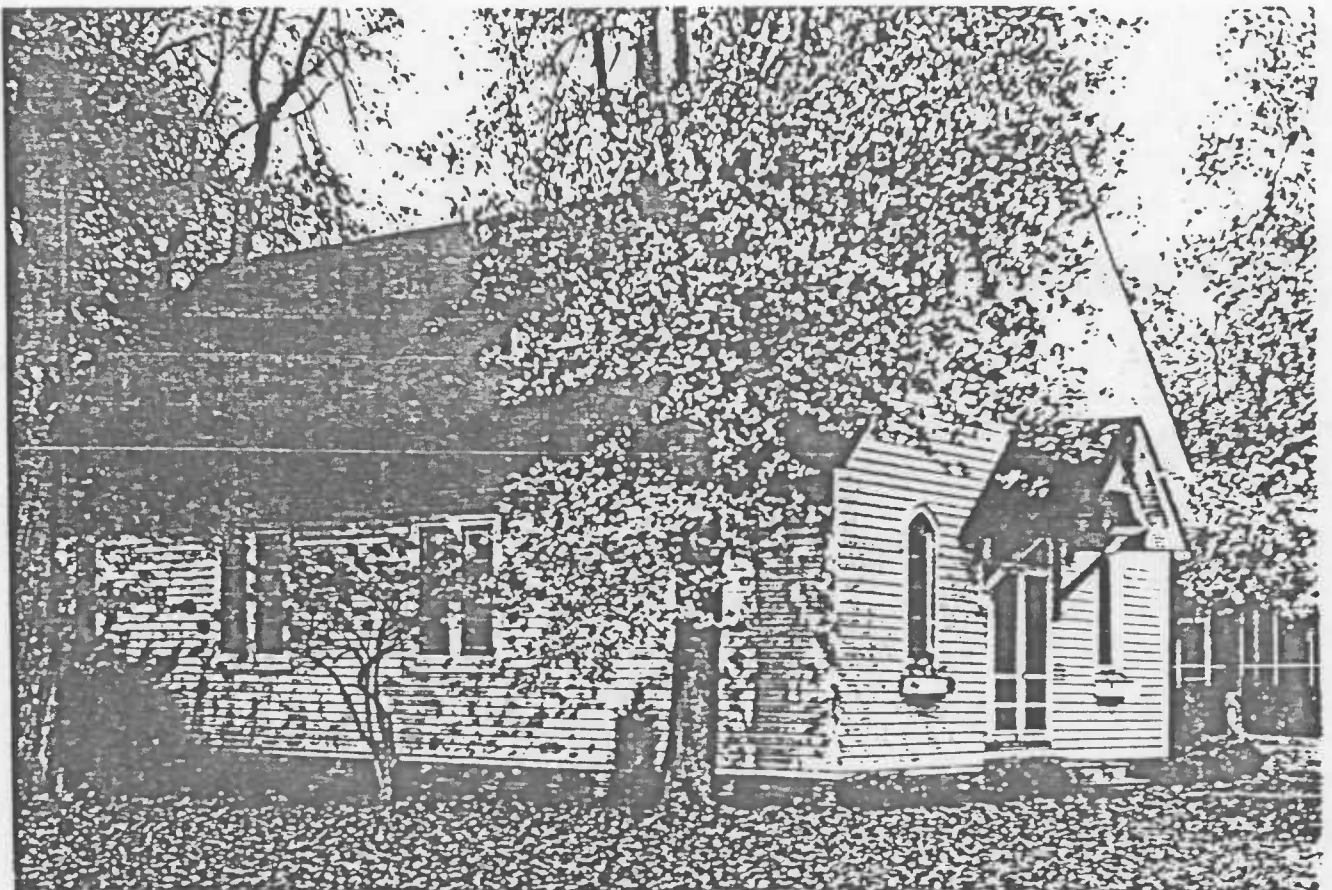
11 106 E. GREEN ST.

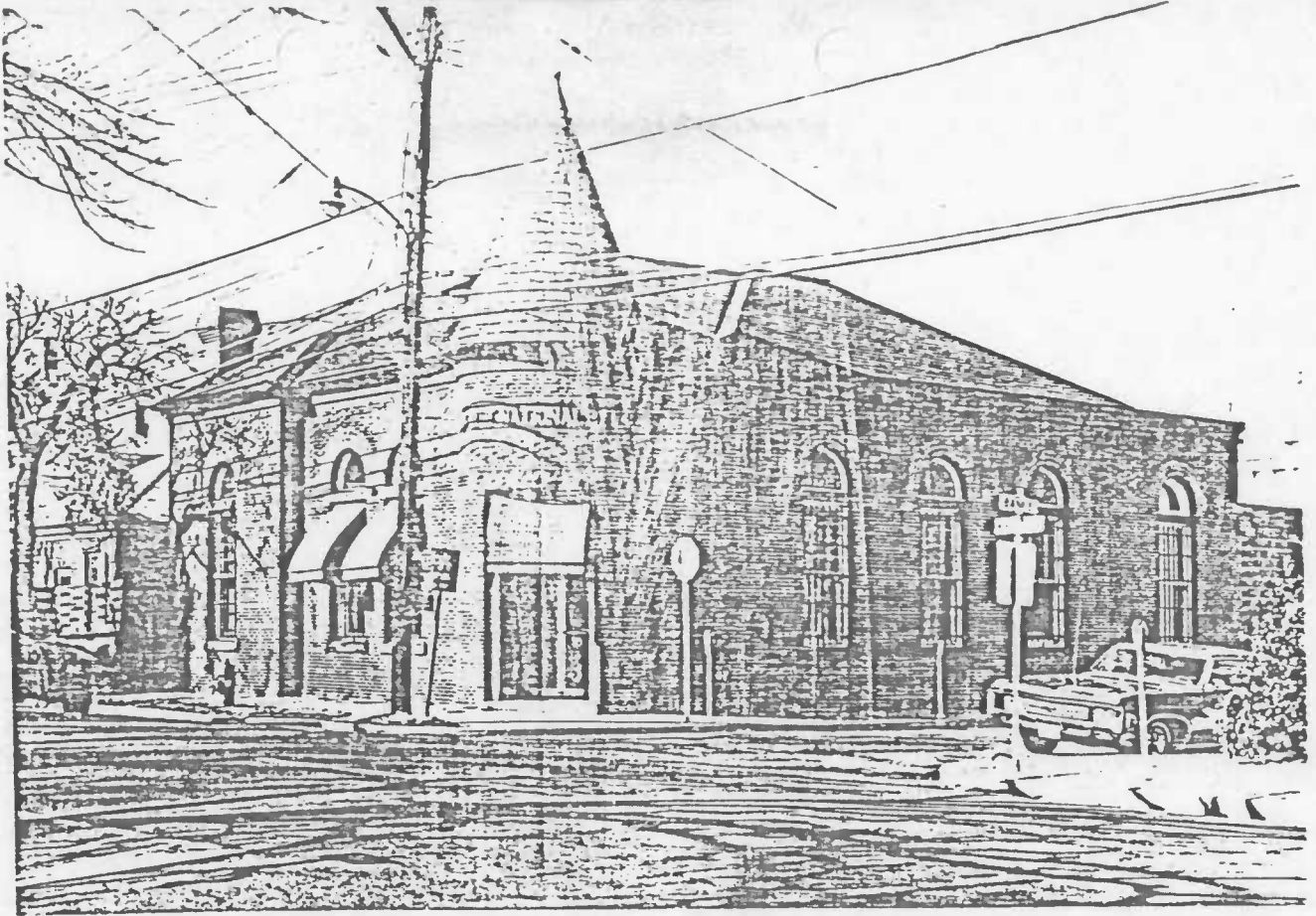


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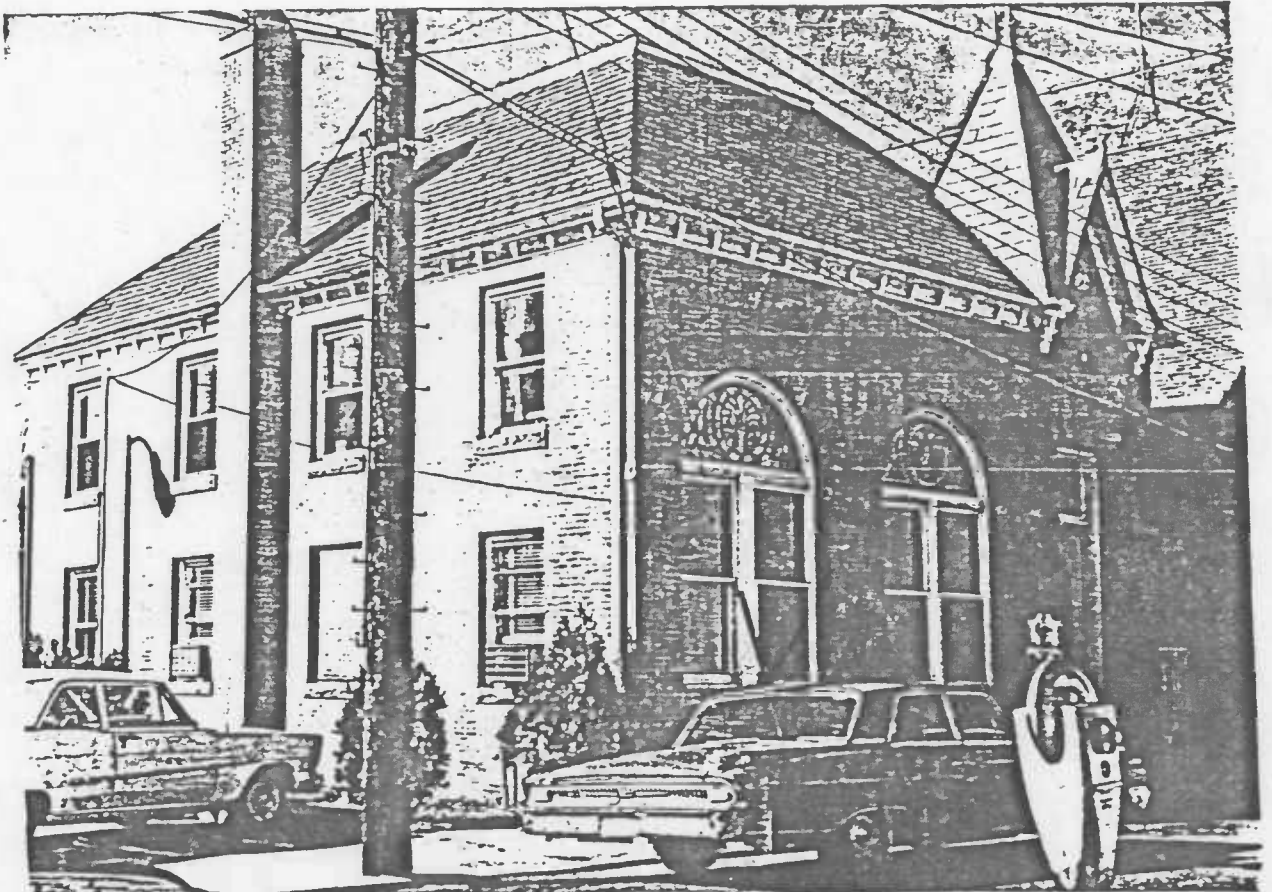


13 JULIA A. FURNELL MUSEUM, MARKET ST.



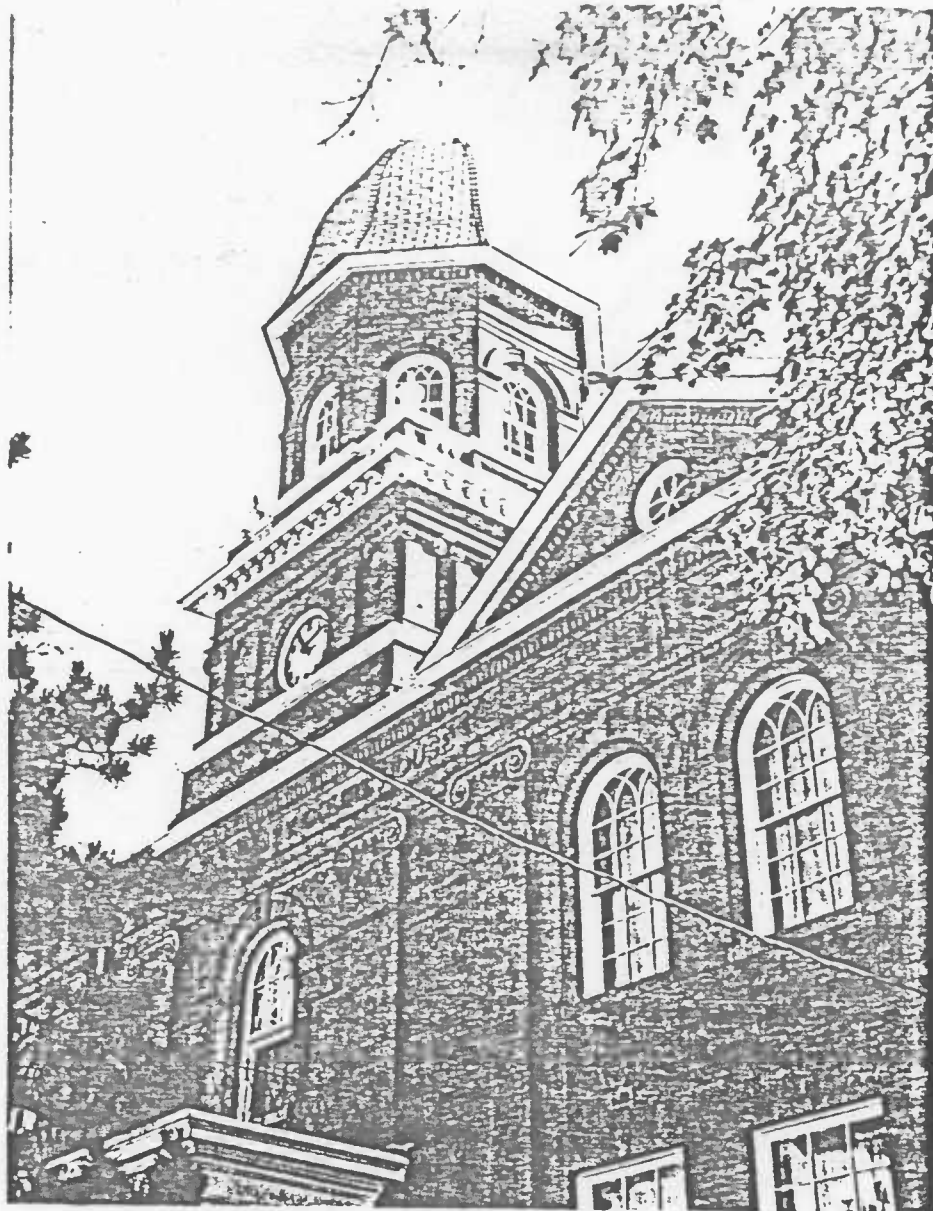


14 FIRST NATIONAL BANK, NORTHWEST CORNER OF BANK & MARKET STS.

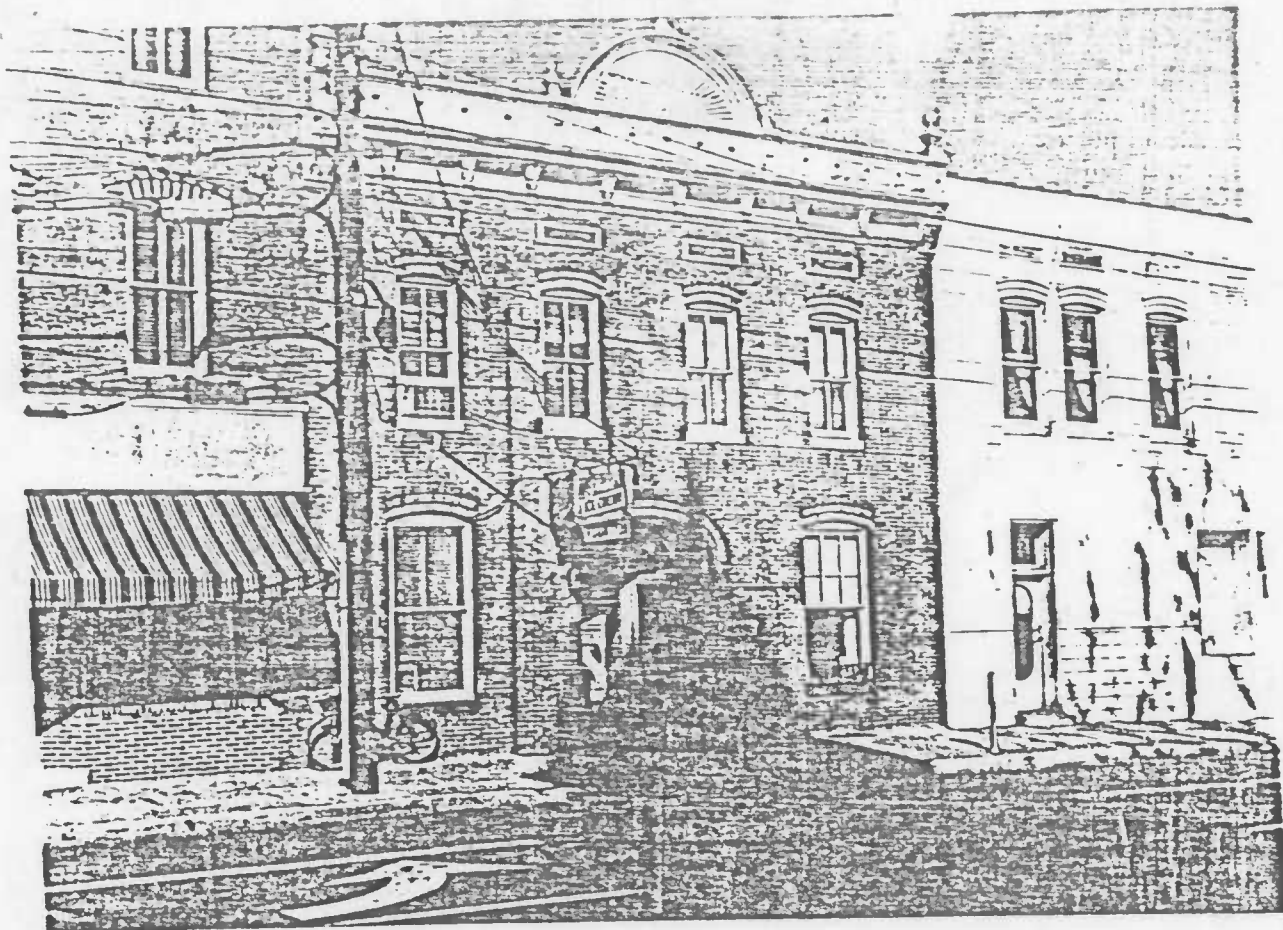


15 LAW OFFICES,

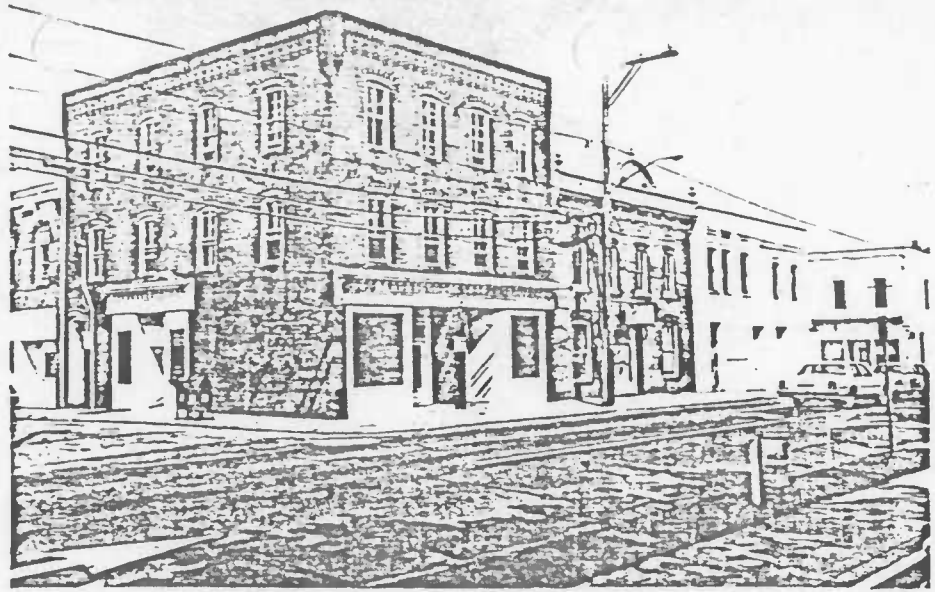
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16 WORCESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE



17 STURGIS BUILDING



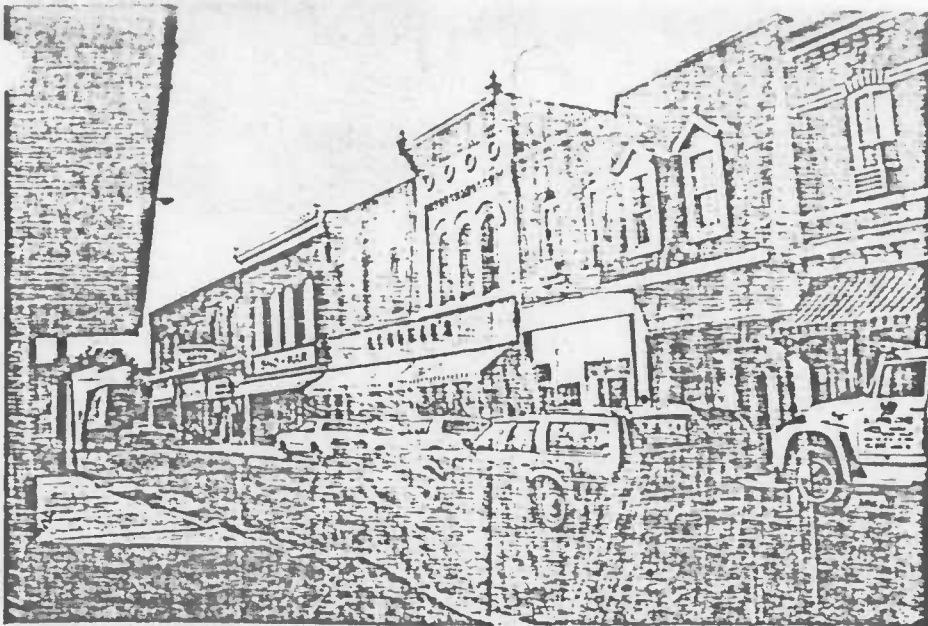
20 NORTH SIDE OF MARKET ST., LOOKING EAST FROM PEARL ST.



19 MARKET ST., LOOKING WEST FROM BANK ST.



18 PEARL ST., LOOKING SOUTH FROM GREEN ST.



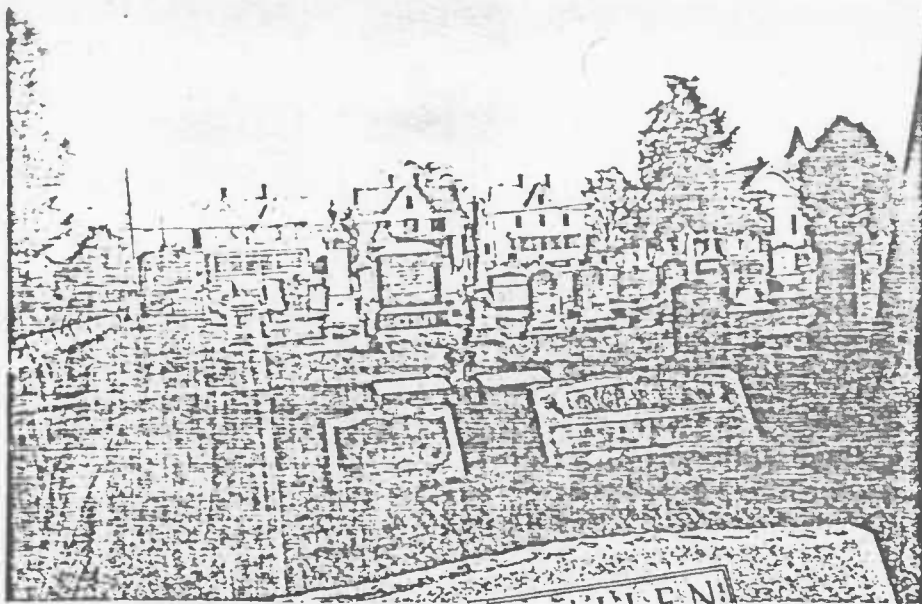
22 NORTH SIDE OF GREEN ST., BETWEEN BANK ST. & WASHINGTON ST., LOOKING WEST FROM WASHINGTON ST.



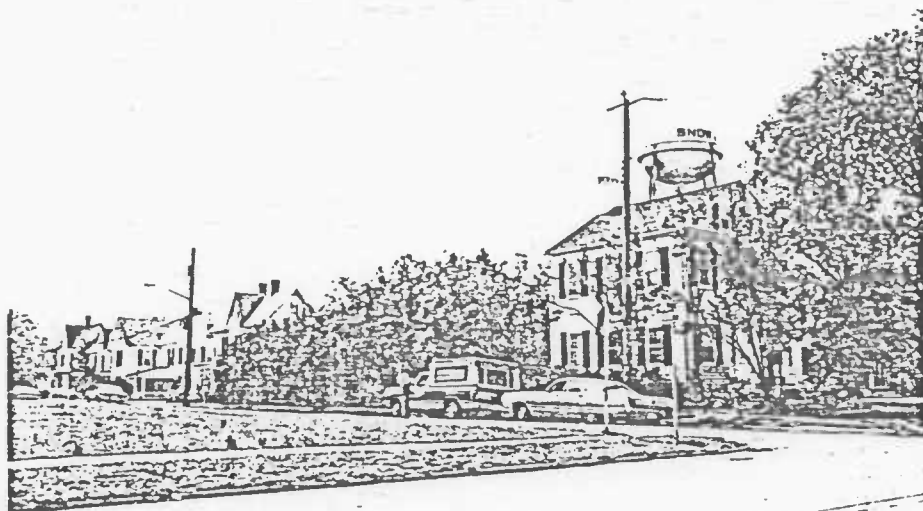
21 NORTH SIDE OF GREEN ST., BETWEEN BANK ST. & WASHINGTON ST., LOOKING EAST FROM BANK ST.



23 NORTH SIDE OF GREEN ST. AT WASHINGTON ST.



27 EAST SIDE OF COLLINS ST., SOUTH OF FEDERAL ST



26 WEST SIDE OF COLLINS ST., SOUTH OF MARKET ST.



28 EAST SIDE OF MUMFORD ST., SOUTH OF MARTIN ST

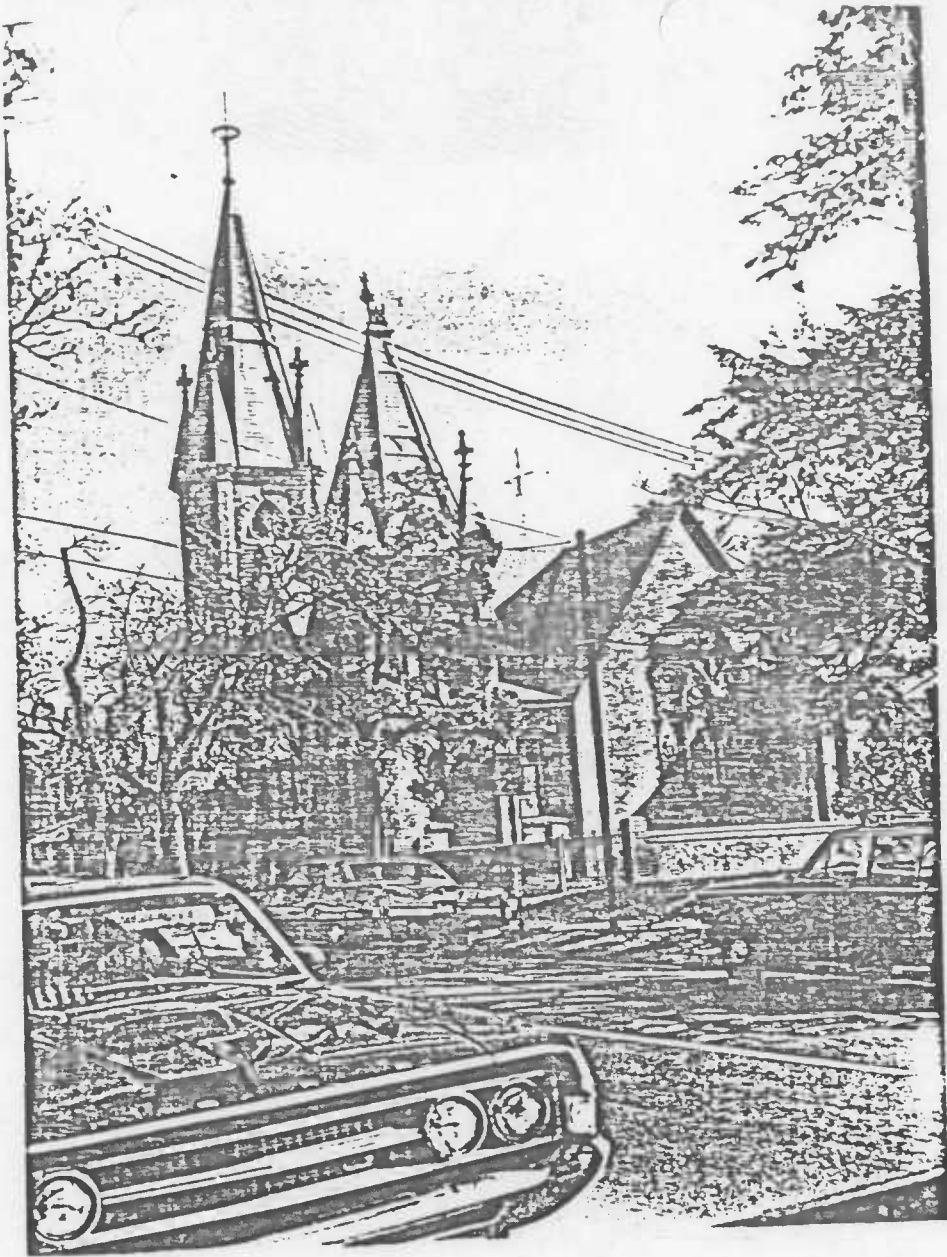


24 NORTH SIDE OF PARK ROW LOOKING EAST
FROM BAY ST.

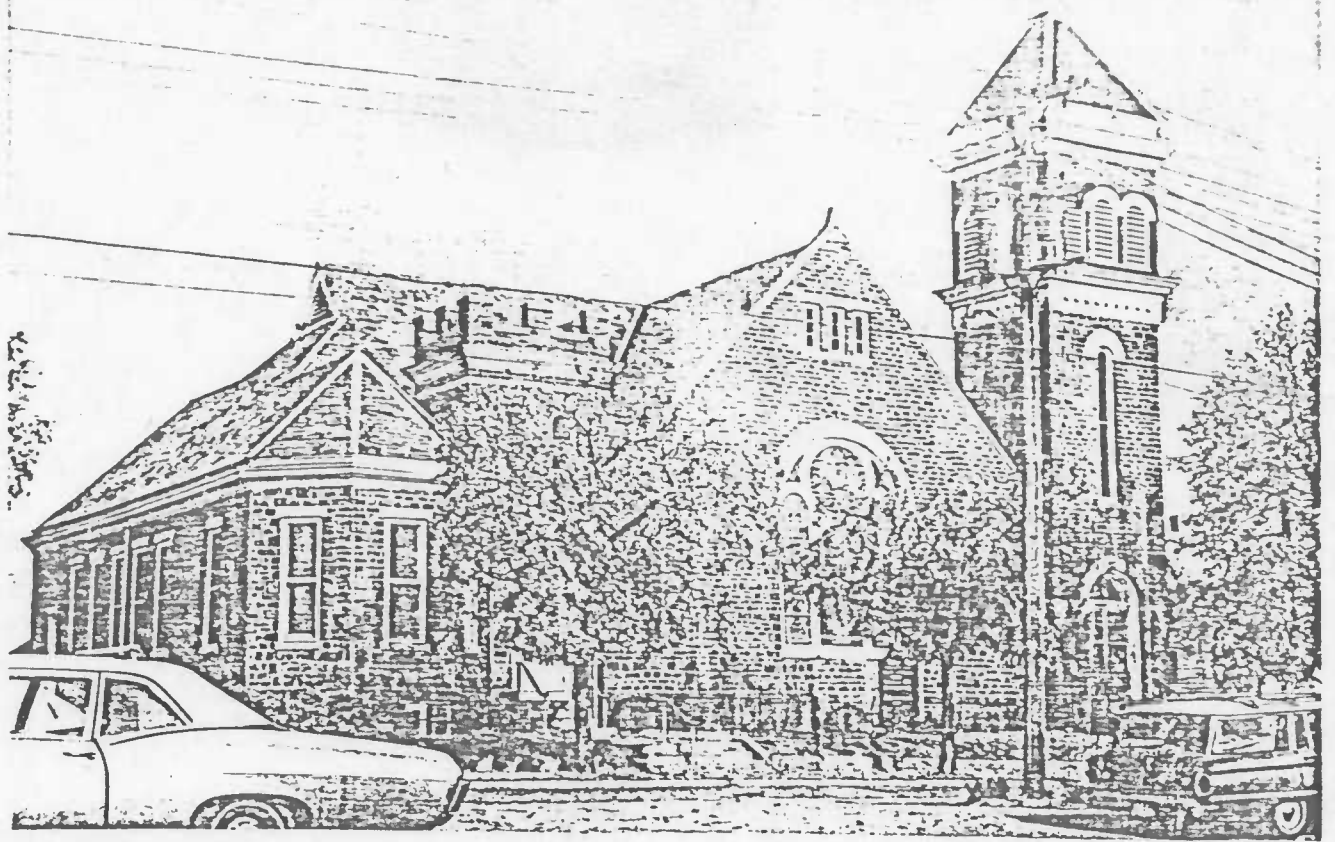


25 HOUSE, SOUTH SIDE OF PARK ROW AT BAY ST.

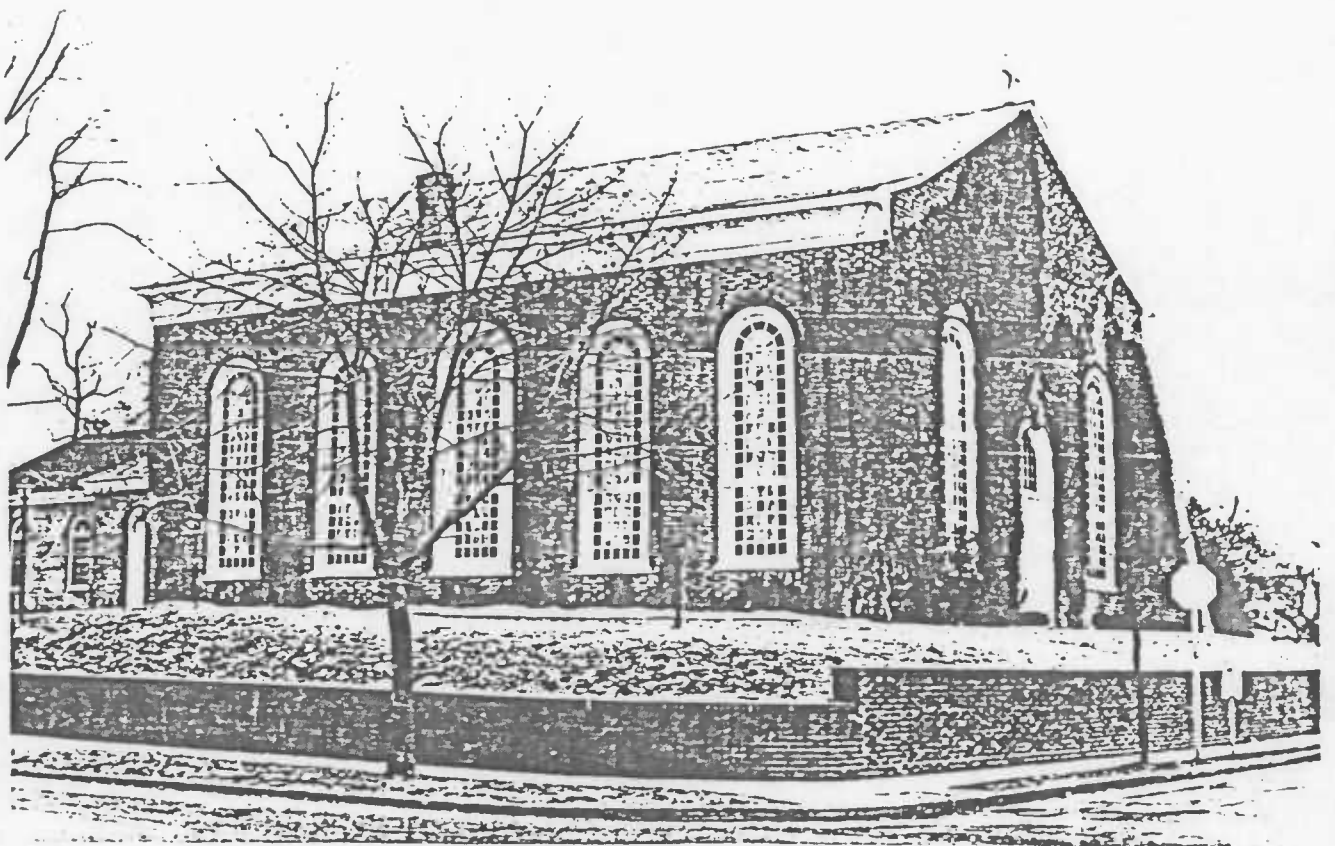
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29 MAKEMIE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



34 WHATCOAT METHODIST CHURCH



33 ALL HALLOWS CHURCH

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32



100 BLOCK S. CHURCH ST., EAST SIDE



31 100 BLOCK N. CHURCH ST., WEST SIDE



30 NORTH SIDE OF MARKET ST., AT GUNBY ST.